

Beautiful Machine Woman Language: Teaching Guide

NOEMI



Key Terms

- Artificial Intelligence
- Cyborgs
- Femme Bodies
- Capitalism
- Ars Poetica
- Data Transcription

Themes

- Purpose and potential of language
- Machines and the human body
- Relationship between workers and technology

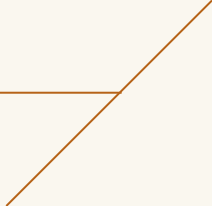
Discussion Questions

- ❖ Chen examines the relationship between workers and AI technology through their experience as a data transcriptionist. On page 46, Chen writes, “Waddling on all fours, throwing the weight of my labor into irrelevance.”
 - How did Chen’s words impact your feelings about this relationship?
-

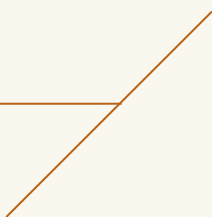
Discussion Questions (cont.)

- ❖ In the final line of “Status: SUCCESS | SubStatus: Notes of a soft noose,” Chen writes, “Any notion of native accents is colonial” (p. 48).
 - What message is Chen trying to convey about language, identity, and power dynamics?
 - In what ways could the concept of a “native accent” be seen as reinforcing power imbalances and perpetuating colonial legacies?
-

Writing Prompts

- ❖ *Beautiful Machine Woman Language* presents the cyborg as a figure of despair and longing. Write a short story (300-700 words) in which you are a machine that has merged with a human body. Explore the potential consequences of this fusion on one's personal identity, relationship dynamics, and place in society.
-
- 

Writing Prompts (cont.)

- ❖ *Beautiful Machine Woman Language* engages with the concept of "ars poetica" by exploring the role of poet as subject and the act of writing. Write your own poem about poetry in the context of AI and coding. How might the creation of algorithms and machine-generated content change, challenge, or build upon traditional notions of poetic form and artistic expression?
-
- 

In-Class Activity: “Answer the Riddle”

On pages 58-66, Chen begins the “Machinal Questions” section of the book by asking questions about the body, memory, and our ability to perceive and name new phenomena. Each of the four poems on these pages has the same title and uses a blank word or phrase: “{{ }}”.

1. Read through the section and write down any language or questions Chen asks that stick out to you.
 2. In groups of 3-4, share what you wrote and discuss how it relates to the book’s themes.
 3. Discuss with your group and try to “Answer the Riddle” on page 67. What could “{{ }}” mean?
-